VZCZCXRO1551
PP RUEHIK RUEHPOD RUEHTRO RUEHYG
DE RUEHBS #0271 0501648
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 191648Z FEB 08
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7039
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA 0101

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 000271

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E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>PREL</u> <u>PGOV</u>

SUBJECT: BELGIUM TO RECOGNIZE KOSOVO, FORMAL ACTION

AWAITING ROYAL DECREE

REF: A. SECSTATE 16245 AND B. SECSTATE 16319

11. (SBU) Per ref A request, Ambassador spoke with Belgian FM De Gucht regarding developments at the Security Council. De Gucht made clear that he already had issued instructions to support the USG position on continued discussion of Kosovo.

12. (SBU) The Minister made clear to EU colleagues during the February 18 GAERC that Belgium would recognize the new state of Kosovo, according to a senior aide. Formal action must await the promulgation of a Royal Decree, which is expected shortly. Embassy will report when this step has occurred. Fox

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